(3) Government are not aware of any such hardship

Filthy and insanitary condition of Azhikkal.

216. Mr. M. A. Chakko.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the filthy and insanitary condition of the the thickly populated region of Azhikkal, which owing to its close proximity to the town of Cochin is fast developing into a slum area?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. A scheme for the improvement of rural sanitation is under the consideration of Government. Early attention will be paid to the improvement of the area in question when this scheme matures.

Medical Examination of School Children.

217. Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the Table a consolidated result of the medical examination of schools, carried out during the last three years, especially with reference to the following points:—

(1) what disease was most common (a)among boys, (b) amongst girls with reference to each school;

(2) whether any action was taken as a result of the inspection?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(i) A consolidated statement containing information on the points (i) (a) & (b) is placed on the Council Table.

(2) Health cards have been issued to the guardians and the Headmasters have been advised to direct the pupils to the nearest medical institution for treatment of the defects pointed out. Copies of inspection reports have been forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction also for necessary action.

Government Almanac and its publication.

218. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) how many copies of the Government Almanac are printed every year;

(b) how many of these copies are required by the Government for their own use ;

(c) how is the rest disposed of;

(d) is any commission allowed on the sale; if allowed, how much;

(e) at what price is each copy sold;

(f) what is the total amount of expenditure incurred for this purpose including the pay of the astrologers, cost of printing paper and binding;

(g) what does each copy for Government use cost;

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(h) were petitions received from astrologers of good standing and renown to supply the copies required by the Government at 8 as. a copy;

(i) what has been done with such petitions;

(j) what stands in the way of the Government in accepting the proposal?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.— (a) 2,000 copies.

(b) About 500 copies. (Actual No. 467 copies.)

(c) The remaining 1,500 copies are sold to the public through a contractor.

(d) Yes; the rate of commission varies according to the offers received from tenderers. A discount of 25 per cent was allowed for the calendars for the current year.

(e) Eight annas a copy.

(f) The total expenditure incurred for the current year's calendar including the pay in full of the astrologers is Rs. 1,183-13-10.

(g) Re. 0-9-6.

(h) Yes; from one Kanippayyur Sankaran Nambudirippad Avl., of Kunnamkulam.

(i) Government did not think that the petitioners' proposal was acceptable and he was informed accordingly.

(j) Government consider that question of finance alone should not weigh with them in the case of a publication of this nature There is some prestige in having a State Calendar and so the proposal is not acceptable.

Establishment of Anchal Offices in rural areas.

219. Mr. Ouseph P. Kundukulam.—Will the Government be pleased to inform:—

(a) whether the order sanctioning the establishment of Anchal Offices in rural areas on the financial responsibilities of the local population is still in force;

(b) if so, why the Anchal Office at Parappur was abolished;

(c) if not, why the Government thought fit to cancel the order?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) Yes.

(b) Because no guarantee was forthcoming to make good the loss, if any, that might have to be incurred in working the Anchal Office.

(c) This question does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Akkikavu-Pazhanji Road.

220. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be be pleased to state:—

(a) what was the amount granted by the Government in 1103 for repairing the Akkikavu-Pazhanji road;

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